

Defending the Homeland

Guard on the Frontline

A Long and Proud History

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

August 2006
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Soldiers

The Reserve Component

A Special Issue

Special Reserve Component
Pullout Poster
PAGE 17

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Letter from the Editor

In this special edition of **Soldiers** we focus on the origins, organization, missions and current operations of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. Collectively known as the reserve component, the Guard and the Reserve are vital members of the Army team, and in the following pages we offer a glimpse at the many important tasks these fine Soldiers undertake on the nation's behalf.

Our coverage begins with Heike Hasenauer's wide-ranging interview with BG James Nuttall, the deputy director of readiness and mobilization at Headquarters, G3. Nuttall oversees Guard and Reserve integration efforts, and he offers many important insights on the roles, missions and future of the reserve component.

We then get a more Guard-specific overview from the director of the Army National Guard,



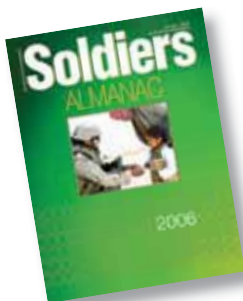
LTG Clyde Vaughn, followed by MAJ Les Melnyk's Guard history article and MSG Bob Haskell's excellent "Defending the Homeland." Bob then offers us a compelling look at the "Guard on the Frontline."

LTG Jack Stultz, director of the Army Reserve, kicks off our coverage on the other arm of the reserve component with his "Outlook on the Reserve." That's followed by Dr. Lee Harford's review of the Reserve's history and current ops, and by in-depth looks at the Reserve's hurricane-relief efforts, training and frontline operations overseas.

The men and women of the Army Guard and Army Reserve serve the nation proudly, and we're proud to honor them for their dedication.



Steve Harding
Steve Harding
Managing Editor



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Soldiers

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The Role of the Reserve Component

Story by Heike Hasenauer

SOLDIERS recently spoke with National Guard BG James Nuttall — deputy director of operations, readiness and mobilization at Headquarters, G-3, at the Pentagon — to get his perspective on the significance of the reserve component's contribution to the active Army in fighting the global war on terrorism.

Nuttall, who oversees National Guard and Reserve integration efforts, is responsible for all Title X functions associated with Army current operations, force readiness, mobilization, military support to civil authorities, information operations, special operations forces, and anti-terrorism/force protection.

He also monitors Army special-operations forces programs, including sensitive special-mission units and counter-terrorism forces.

"The reserve component provided a significant part of the combat force during our last Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation," Nuttall said, referring to OIF rotation 05-07, which involved six reserve-component brigade combat teams.

During the most recent rotation of Soldiers to the war

theaters in Iraq and Afghanistan, 34 percent of the total Army force was composed of reserve-component Soldiers, Nuttall added.

The figure attests to the significance of the reserve component's contribution to the active component in the war on terror, he said.

When the current rotation ends this year, these Soldiers will be able to take a short break from OEF/OIF rotations, Nuttall said, since they will have afforded the active component an opportunity to re-form its combat brigades.

The National Guard's Presence

"Without the National Guard's enhanced brigades, which were 'built'

at a higher level of readiness, we could never perform the mission expected of the total Army today," Nuttall said, referring to the fact that these brigades can achieve full combat proficiency more quickly than other large units.

"We knew when we went into Iraq and Afghanistan that we couldn't perform our missions with a standing active-component alone," he said.

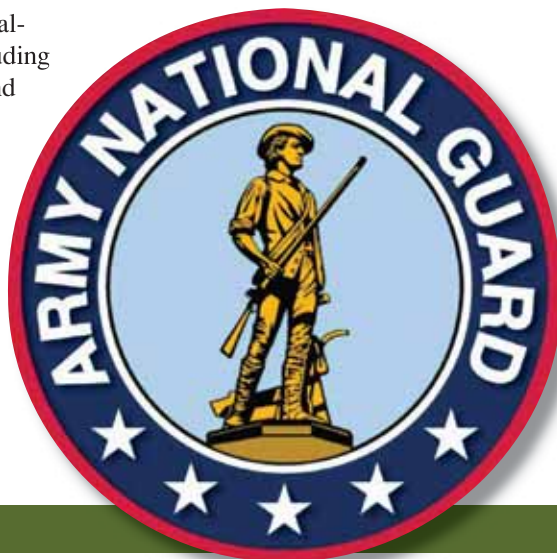
Among the first brigades into Iraq were National Guard BCTs, including the 30th from North Carolina, the 39th from Arkansas and the 81st from Washington.

In a few months, the reserve component will "round-down" the number of its troops needed in Iraq and Afghanistan, as more reconstituted active-component units move in, Nuttall said.

In April 2004 some 165,000 reserve-component Soldiers were either deployed or preparing to deploy. In April 2006, that number fell to under 92,000.

That's not to say there won't continue to be a strong RC presence in Iraq and elsewhere around the world, Nuttall said.

In July 2005 a 1,700-member reduced-sized combat team from the Florida National Guard's 53rd BCT



During the most recent rotation of Soldiers to the war theaters in Iraq and Afghanistan, 34 percent of the total Army force was composed of reserve-component Soldiers.

deployed to Afghanistan. It will soon be replaced by the 41st BCT from the Oregon National Guard, to work as part of Task Force Phoenix, to train the Afghan National Army, Nuttall said.

Guard Soldiers are also in the Balkans, and in Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers.

"There are three types of reserve-component units," Nuttall said, "those that are deployed, those that are returning home and those that are preparing for deployment."

Many units have volunteered to go into harm's way, disregarding the safety net established by Army regulations, which indicate reserve-component units can be deployed one out of every six years. Active-component units can be deployed one out of every three years.

Soldiers in units that have deployed two or three times have volunteered to deploy, Nuttall said. An example is the Rhode Island-based 43rd Military Police Brigade, which was called up for duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2003 and recently volunteered to go to Iraq.

The Reserve's Role

"You hear more about the National Guard than the Reserve, because the

force within the Army Guard is larger, just over 340,000 compared to 190,000 in the Reserve, and all the reserve component's combat forces — with the exception of an attack helicopter unit and an infantry battalion — are in the Guard," Nuttall said.

The Guard also has the advantage of the "regimental hometown effect" — Guard units can often trace their lineages to the origins of the communities in which their units are located. And National Guard Soldiers often can trace the service of generations of relatives in present-day units, Nuttall added.

The Reserves' valuable role in the war on terrorism, he said, isn't as "sexy" as that of the Guard, but is every bit as critical. Reserve Soldiers typically perform combat-support and combat-service-support roles, such as psychological operations, civil affairs and medical services.


They're also MPs, critically needed to maintain order, conduct presence patrols and guard prisoners, at the same time they provide security to families at installations worldwide.

They're Quartermaster Corps Soldiers who handle finances, supplies, clothing and equipment issue;

who feed and provide water to the troops; who provide shelter, shower and latrine facilities; and who manage transportation assets and fuel.

Countless other Reservists fill jobs that run the gamut from doctors and lawyers to mortuary-affairs personnel and postal clerks.

Reservists are located around the globe and often fill critical combat-support and combat-service-support roles left vacant by deployed active-duty Soldiers. "Many relieve active-component Soldiers in the continental United States at training installations where all Soldiers undergo training for combat," Nuttall said. "And it's not uncommon to find these Reservists on voluntary second and third active-duty stints."

At the time this article was written, the numbers of Soldiers "down-range" included some 72,000 active-duty Soldiers, 28,000 National Guard members and about 8,000 Reservists, Nuttall said. 



The Director's Perspective

THE National Guard boasts a proud history that is nearly 370 years old, a present that is deeply committed to a call to duty, and a future that will have a balanced force of combat, combat-support and combat-service support units composed of the youngest force in decades, and led by the most experienced combat veterans since World War II.

Just before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, a little more than 4,000 Army National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were deployed around the world, performing various missions. Since 9/11, more than 259,000 Soldiers have been mobilized under USC Title 10 authority (federal orders), and more than 348,000 have been mobilized under Title 10 or Title 32 (federal and state orders).

From intense combat operations, shoulder-to-shoulder with the Army fighting the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, to peacekeeping operations in the Sinai, the Army National Guard is answering the nation's call. At the same time, a rapid-response capability, which is available to our 54 states and territories, has never been more necessary.

While the Guard is operating at home and across the globe, it's also

LTG Clyde Vaughn is the director of the Army National Guard.

transforming to meet current and future goals. The National Guard's hurricane response in September 2005 — with more than 50,000 Soldiers serving on relief and recovery efforts after hurricanes Katrina and Rita — exemplifies the Guard's transformation. Many of the men and women who responded were on the water and in the air conducting search-and-rescue operations within four hours of the hurricane's landfall.

The Hurricane Katrina effort, with



more than 42,000 Soldiers on duty on Sept. 29, 2005, was the largest Army National Guard response to a natural disaster in the nation's history. Guard Soldiers searched for and rescued civilians trapped by floodwaters; evacuated patients from hospitals; halted lawlessness; delivered water,

food, fuel, medicine and other critical supplies to displaced civilians; and provided temporary shelter and bedding.

Additionally, Guard Soldiers provided critical communications capabilities that allowed other agencies to coordinate relief efforts. They guarded relief workers who re-established critical communications nodes, assisted in repairing destroyed levees, and cleared debris from roads and highways to allow relief-effort expansion.

The Army National Guard saved more than 11,000 lives and assisted in the evacuation of more than 70,000 people. At the same time, we had more than 60,000 Soldiers supporting operations in Iraq and another 10,000 supporting operations in Afghanistan.

While not all of the Army National Guard brigades were employed as full-spectrum brigade combat teams, since 9/11 all of the Guard's brigades have been employed in full, or incrementally by battalion, both inside and outside the continental United States, supporting the war on terror. To date, 39 brigade equivalents have been used since 9/11.

Some brigades deployed in multiple operations, among them the 53rd Infantry Brigade from Florida, the 41st Inf. Bde. from Oregon, and the 40th Inf. Bde. from California. All three infantry battalions from the 53rd

Bde. were deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom-1, while the brigade headquarters has recently returned from its deployment to Afghanistan, where its Soldiers trained the Afghan National Army.

The 41st Bde. also deployed its infantry battalions to Iraq during OIF-1 and OIF-2, along with a rotation in the Sinai. The brigade headquarters is currently deployed to Afghanistan, where it replaced the 53rd Bde. The 40th Bde.'s units served in Operation Noble Eagle, the Balkans, OIF, Guantanamo Bay and Sinai.

Recently, President George W. Bush asked the National Guard to augment the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency so it might better secure our southwestern border. This initiative will allow the CBP to hire and train more agents over the next couple of years. In the coming months, this mission will require up to 6,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to support functions other than law enforcement, such as engineering, medical services, transportation and surveillance missions.

The future of the Army National Guard looks very bright. We've moved past the recruiting woes of the past couple of years, and we're meeting our recruiting objectives and retaining Soldiers at rates that exceed our expectations. Our volunteer ranks shine with some of the brightest, bravest and best-prepared leaders of today and tomorrow. And, at the same time, the record number of non-prior-service enlistees points toward a much younger National Guard force, led by the most experienced set of leaders we've had since World War II. This year, through May, we enlisted more first-time Soldiers than in 2004 and 2005 combined.

"The future of the Army National Guard looks very bright. We've moved past the recruiting woes of the past couple of years, and we're meeting our recruiting objectives..."

The Army National Guard end-strength, as of May 31, 2006, was 340,044, and we're well on our way to 350,000 Soldiers. The Army Guard turned the corner with a net gain in end-strength for the last quarter of fiscal year 2005, the first gain after 24 months of declining numbers. This gain resulted from increased emphasis on recruiting and retention, and several new initiatives.

The Army National Guard increased recruiting and retention of non-commissioned officers from 2,700 in fiscal year 2004 to 4,600 by the end of FY 2005, and added an additional 500 in the first quarter of FY 2006. The Army Guard also increased bonus maximums to \$10,000 for enlistments, \$15,000 for re-enlistments and \$15,000 for prior-service enlistments. It increased retention bonuses from \$5,000 to \$15,000.


The Guard has also implemented four initiatives to help achieve and maintain congressionally authorized end-strength levels — the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, or G-RAP; Every Soldier a Recruiter, or ESAR; the Comprehensive Communication Skills program; and the "Ameri-

can Soldier" advertising campaign.

G-RAP is the Army Guard's adaptation of civilian contract recruiting, whereby traditional Guard Soldiers sign up to be recruiting assistants, or RAs, and provide localized recruiting services. RAs are imbedded in the local communities and are well positioned to reach target populations.

Comprehensive Communication Skills is a new recruiting program of instruction at the Strength Maintenance Training Center. The program was developed to train the full-time recruiting force on how to recruit in wartime. The "American Soldier" advertising campaign is refocusing the image of the Army National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force. The campaign puts the rubber on the neighborhood road with emphasis on NASCAR, iTunes, event teams, pizza boxes, videogaming, theater and high-tech. The "American Soldier" theme relies heavily on Web-based advertising and the 1-800-GO-GUARD Web site.

With more full-time recruiting and retention NCOs, ESAR and part-time RAs, the Guard has the nation's largest recruiting force, with more than 65,000 recruiters. All indicators point toward meeting congressionally mandated totals in FY 2006: 70,000 enlistments and an end-strength of 350,000.

In December 2006 the Army Guard will mark 370 years of service to America at home and abroad. But make no mistake: This is not your forefather's National Guard. Through years of transformation and evolution, we've become the Army National Guard of today and tomorrow. We prove time and time again, when you call out the Guard, you call out America. 





SPC Harold Fields

The Army National Guard

Why So Special?

Story by MAJ Les Melnyk

WHY does the Army have two elements in the reserve component — the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard? It's a fairly common question.

The Army National Guard is distinctly different from the Army Reserve and the regular Army. The differences aren't immediately evident, but they are real, nevertheless. The differences originate deep in our national past, but they exist today and are important for Soldiers to understand, regardless of whether they are active, Guard or Reserve.

Even if Soldiers never join the Guard, they will almost certainly work with Guard Soldiers while they train or are deployed, if they haven't done so already.

MAJ Les Melnyk is the National Guard Bureau historian.

▶ Soldiers of the Texas National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, practice quick-reaction-force operations near Bagram, Afghanistan.





Every Guard member belongs to both the National Guard of the United States and the Guard of his or her own state.

The most fundamental difference is that every member of the National Guard belongs to two organizations — the National Guard of the United States and the National Guard of his or her particular state. In addition to the 50 states, the U.S. territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico all have National Guard units. So there are 54 Army National Guards in all.

Because the Air Force grew out of the Army and has been a separate service only since 1947, there are

also 54 separate Air National Guards. When National Guard members enlist, they swear an oath to the Constitution of the United States as well as to the constitution of the state or territory where they join. They serve two sovereign governments.

Decentralized control for domestic operations is a key part of what makes the Guard special and unique. Centuries of service have shown the wisdom of having a military force that can respond to local as well as national needs. In the past, the Guard served an obvious domestic defensive need.



"The First Muster" by Dan Irolan

- ▲ The Guard traces its origins to the first colonial militia units, which were mustered near Boston in the spring of 1637.
- ▲ In addition to serving in overseas combat theaters, National Guard Soldiers also continue to carry out their traditional civil-aid missions.

dominant power on this continent, relied on local militias that required all free adult men to train together in defense of their colonies.

It is from these militia roots that the Guard traces its history. In fact, the birthday of the National Guard is Dec. 13, 1636, marking the day that town militia companies in the Massachusetts Bay Colony were first organized into regiments, a full 139 years before the founding of the U.S. Army.

GEN George Washington's Continental Army, the forerunner of today's regular Army, was organized from members of these militia units in June 1775 — two months after the battles of Lexington and Concord that started the American Revolution. The militia was a key to winning that war, not just because of its role in battle, but because it denied the British control of the countryside. With British troops isolated in coastal cities, popular opinion in the surrounding areas gradually

shifted towards independence from Britain.

Recognizing the key role the militia played in the Revolution, the founding fathers ratified the militia's continued existence by providing for its longevity in the Constitution. Control over the militia was split between the states and the federal government. The states would train the militia and appoint officers. The federal government would organize and arm the militia and determine the standard of training. The founders intentionally developed a system where military power was not monopolized by the federal government, but split with the states.

That division between state and federal control, further defined by numerous laws over the last two centuries, still characterizes today's National Guard. The Guard remains under the control of its state commander in chief, the governor, unless mobilized for federal service. Governors don't have to request permission from the federal government to use the Guard. It is immediately available and accountable to them.

While in state



Today, natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and regional situations that have national consequences—such as the recent announcement that 6,000 National Guard troops operating under state command will support the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency to stem illegal immigration—demonstrate the continued need for a National Guard that the states can call on.

When America was first settled by Europeans, the Europeans imported their military customs to the New World. The English, who became the

service, the Guard supports civil authorities as they cope with lawlessness and all types of natural disasters. To this day, the National Guard is called out by individual state governors hundreds of times each year.

The Origin of the Guard

The name “National Guard” was first adopted in 1825 by militia units in New York to honor the Marquis de Lafayette, the French nobleman who served with Washington during the

American Revolution and later commanded the Garde Nationale de Paris during the French Revolution.

The name caught on in other states, and in 1916 the federal government adopted “National Guard” as the official term for the militia. That same year, Congress authorized the creation of the Organized Reserve Corps, the forerunner of today’s Army Reserve.

A significant difference between the Guard and Reserve today is the size and composition of the two forces. The Army Guard is authorized 350,000 Soldiers and is divided into combat, combat-support and combat-service-support units. The portion of the Army Reserve that is organized into troop units is authorized 205,000 Soldiers, but there is very little combat structure. So combat-arms Soldiers coming off active duty and seeking a combat unit in the Reserves will probably end up joining the Guard.

Soldiers in the Army Reserve, as with those in the active Army, don’t have state obligations. Though calls to state active duty can be inconvenient for Guard Soldiers, they have their benefits. There is a great deal of personal satisfaction that comes from helping neighbors during times of crisis. State service also builds a reservoir of goodwill with local communities, which translates into support at the state and national levels.

Governors and congressional delegations will fight for “their” National Guards. For countless American citizens, the face of the Army in their communities is the National Guard, a neighbor helping a neighbor recover from the effects of a natural disaster.

◀ National Guard Soldiers use light armored vehicles to move through New Orleans’ flooded streets while searching for stranded survivors.





▲ The Army and Air Guard often work together. Here, a New York Army Guard UH-60 is loaded aboard an Air Guard C-5 Galaxy transport.

There are legal differences that make this distinction between the Guard and the other Army components even more clear. The 1878 Posse Comitatus Act prevents federal military forces from enforcing civil laws in the United States unless specifically authorized by the president. Federal military forces include the Army Reserve and even the Guard when it is mobilized by the federal government.

Posse comitatus does not apply to the Guard when it is employed in its state status. That allows governors to augment local law-enforcement agencies with Guard troops if necessary.

Posse comitatus, the rapid response and local accountability that

come from state control, and long experience in supporting civil authorities explain why the Guard alone is used in the vast majority of homeland-defense, homeland-security and military-aid-to-civil-authority missions.

Only rarely is a disaster or riot so overwhelming that federal forces must become involved. On some of these occasions, like the 1992 Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, the National Guard was federalized after active Army and Marine troops arrived on the scene and the Guard was placed under command of an active Army officer.

On other occasions, including after Hurricane Katrina, federal forces, under a federal chain of command, work together with Guard forces, under a state chain of command, all in support of local civil authorities. Close

coordination between state and federal authorities assures unity of effort during those situations.

Homeland Security Today

Because the Guard has such a long history of serving the states, it has been quick to adapt to changing threats to homeland security. The result has been an expansion of forces and capabilities tailored to address 21st-century threats. All of these activities are unique to the National Guard.

In 1996 Congress told the Department of Defense to organize specialized units that would work with civilian emergency responders. These units would assess potential attacks with weapons of mass destruction, advise emergency responders on how to deal





SGT Eddie Sguenza

▲ National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have long been among the first responders during natural disasters such as floods and tornadoes.

with the hazard and provide communication capabilities at an incident site.

Because of the Guard's traditionally close association with emergency responders, the DOD decided to build this capability into the Guard. Initially, 10 22-man weapons-of-mass-destruction civil support teams were organized, one for each Federal Emergency Management Agency region, and composed of full-time Army and Air National Guard members.

In the wake of Sept. 11 and the anthrax attacks of 2001, demand for the teams was so great that Congress authorized one team for each state and territory, with two in California, for a total of 55.

Twelve regional response teams, called CERFPs, have also been organized. *[See related story on homeland defense.]*

The Guard also includes Alaska's 49th Missile Defense Battalion and Colorado's 100th Missile Defense Brigade, both dedicated to defeating ballistic missile attacks against the United States.

Since 9/11, the National Guard has been leveraging existing combat capabilities for homeland defense. The headquarters in every state has been transformed to provide a joint-forces command-and-control capability in the event of an emergency. A joint operations center with redundant and secure communications capabilities now operates all day, every day, in every state. These state JOCs regularly conduct exercises to test their reactions to a variety of incidents and attacks, from hurricanes to terrorist use of a WMD.

Every state now has a designated reaction force for rapid emergency response. These forces come from existing units and aren't always Army Guard. Air National Guard security police — the equivalent of Army

military police — frequently take turns serving as reaction forces.

One key element in preparing for domestic missions is having the right troops on hand for governors to deal with a crisis. Since 2003 the National Guard has redistributed forces among the states to ensure that each state has a core group of response capabilities, termed the "essential 10." These capabilities include the joint force headquarters and CST in each state, plus the ability to conduct security, communications, medical, aviation, engineering, transportation, maintenance and logistics operations.

In an emergency in their state, no governor would have to go searching for these capabilities. Each one has immediate access to them in either their Army or Air National Guard.

The Guard has trained units to respond to cyber attacks and to assist the government, commercial and private sectors in evaluating threats to critical infrastructure. All of these new

- A U.S.-Iraqi honor guard pays tribute to three of the more than 365 National Guard Soldiers killed in Iraq since March 31, 2003.

capabilities are unique responses to the homeland-security threats of the 21st century.

Meanwhile, overseas, the Guard's role in the war on terror continues. More than 200,000 Guard Soldiers have been mobilized for active duty overseas since 9/11. At one point in 2005, half of the combat brigades in Iraq were Army Guard units, and a Guard division headquarters commanded active-duty brigades for the first time since World War II.

When mobilized to fight overseas, all units are being equipped identically, and it is hard to distinguish the Guard from Reserve and active-duty Soldiers.

With all Army components scheduled to convert to identical modular units over the next few years, the days of tiered resourcing — in which Guard and Reserve units were equipped with fewer Soldiers and outdated equipment — are expected to become a thing of the past.

Overseas, the total Army concept makes all components increasingly hard to distinguish. At home, the National Guard's roots as the militia of the states give it a role and influence in homeland defense, homeland security and military support to civil authorities far out of proportion to its size.

For nearly 400 years, the Guard has been the average American's most direct link to the military, and it remains so to this day. 🇺🇸



SSG Lorie Jewell





▲ Wearing protective suits, members of a National Guard medical team triage a “casualty” of the simulated weapon of mass destruction.



MSG Bob Haskell

The Army National Guard

Defending the Homeland

Story by MSG Bob Haskell

A RECENT training exercise in the District of Columbia and a change-of-command ceremony in Alaska underscored the National Guard's evolution and readiness as a homeland-security and homeland-defense force.

Exercise Vital Guardian took place beside the D.C. National Guard Armory and RFK Stadium and involved a fictitious weapon of mass destruction — an improvised nuclear device — that was “detonated” by fictional terrorists.

“This is not a show,” LTG H. Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, told participants. “This is not a capabilities exercise. This is no-kidding training.”

All of the players who would support civil authorities and emergency responders were represented at the high-profile Exercise Vital Guardian. More than 460 Guard members

(Continued on page 17)

MSG Bob Haskell works at the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office.



SSG Jeremy Clawson

▶ CPT John Heminway of the Kansas National Guard inspects a simulated contaminated soil sample in an emergency-response vehicle.



The Guard on the Border

PRESIDENT George W. Bush has called for up to 6,000 National Guard Soldiers to be deployed along the U.S. border with Mexico, to help Customs and Border Protection stem the flow of illegal immigrants into America and to support efforts to reform the immigration system.

The initial commitment would be for one year, while the CBP begins recruiting and training thousands of new agents and beefs up its border security with new technology, the president said during a nationally televised address in May.

Bush said that the CBP would be supported by an additional 6,000 officers by the end of 2008, and that improved technology for border security would include high-tech fences, motion sensors, infrared cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles “to prevent illegal crossings.”

Employing Guard troops would be one of “several immediate steps to strengthen border enforcement during this period of transition,” Bush said.

As new technologies and newly trained CBP agents become available, the Guard’s presence along the border would be reduced.

Bush said the federal government would coordinate with governors to place Guard troops along the southern borders of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

“The Border Patrol will remain in the lead,” Bush said. “Guard units will not be involved in direct law-enforcement activities — that duty will be done by the Border Patrol.”

Guard troops would assist the CBP by “operating surveillance systems, analyzing intelligence, installing fences and vehicle barriers, building patrol roads and providing training,” Bush said.

And border duty would not affect the National Guard’s ability to perform its other duties.

“It is important for Americans to know that we have enough Guard forces to win the war on terror, to respond to natural disasters and to help secure our border,” he added.

The National Guard Bureau reported that the Army and Air National Guard have a total of 440,000 men and women, of whom 71,000 are currently engaged in the war on terror.

“The National Guard can do this mission. We have the skills, the capabilities and the available, highly-trained people,” Guard officials said. “Our Soldiers and airmen will perform this mission under the command and control of the state governors, and under the funding of the federal government, on Title 32 status.”

“The United States is not going to militarize the southern border,” Bush said. “Mexico is our neighbor, and our friend.”

Guard engineer units have built fences and roads along the southern border during annual training rotations for more than 20 years. Additionally, the National Guard has been supporting counter-drug missions along the border since 1989.

This is not the first time that Bush has asked for National Guard troops to support domestic authorities for an extended period. In 2002 more than 1,300 Guard troops assisted the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Border Patrol and the U.S. Customs Service in conducting inspections at 52 sites in 12 states along the northern and southern borders.

Airport security became a major Guard mission during the winter of 2001-2002, early in the war against terrorism.

Nearly 9,000 Army and Air Guard members were assigned to 444 airports by December 2001, after the president requested additional personnel during that holiday season, a National Guard Bureau official said. Less than half of that number remained on duty when the airport mission ended in May 2002.

“The National Guard’s past performance is indicative of future success,” said officials who are confident that the Guard would help in the effort to deter illegal immigrants from crossing the southern border. — *MSG Bob Haskell*



▶ The National Guard is no stranger to border duty, having long been involved in such missions as providing engineering support for the construction of border fences, patrol roads and other projects.



MSG Bob Haskell (both this page)

from nine states and the District of Columbia took part.

They included the Virginia National Guard's 34th Civil Support Team

▼ Decontamination would be a vital part of any post-WMD recovery effort, so Guard CERFP members undergo rigorous decon training.

from Fort Pickett, the CERFP — short for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package — from West Virginia, and a security force from the Maryland Guard's 200th Military Police Company.

Thirty National Guard counter-

▲ Victim-extraction teams do much of the dirty work for the Guard's CERFPs. Here, team members practice moving building debris during a search.

drug personnel also provided real-time aerial surveillance of the scene with aircraft equipped with thermal imagers and forward-looking infrared cameras.

The 55 CSTs that have been formed in every state and territory since 1997, and the 12 CERFPs — one for each Federal Emergency Management Agency region — which have been trained and equipped within the past three years, are among the Guard's principle weapons in the campaign against domestic terrorism.

The first 10 CSTs stood up in 1999. The 22-member units are known for their ability to support civil authorities at incident sites, by identifying chemical, biological and other agents that could endanger emergency responders. The CSTs also function as communications centers for police, fire departments and other agencies.





Mark Farmer

The mobile analytical labs and unified command suites employed by the federally sanctioned teams make them invaluable assets for state governors. Teams are now on duty or in training in all 54 states and territories. Two are based in California.

The 12 CERFPs are units of 100 or more Guard members who can extract people from confined spaces or collapsed structures, decontaminate victims with assembly-line precision, and triage and stabilize medical casualties.

A full-time civil-support team is usually the core component of a CERFP, which consists of an enhanced chemical-decontamination unit, an enhanced medical unit and an enhanced engineer unit with special search-and-rescue equipment for locating and extracting victims. A quick-reaction unit, such as Maryland's military police company, would provide security support at an incident site if requested.

CERFPs are located in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington and West Virginia. Congress has authorized the National Guard to organize five more units in locations still to be determined.

The CERFPs are not new entities, but an adaptation of units that already exist. They are a combination of Army and Air Guard units that periodically train together, so they could work together during a weapon-of-mass-destruction emergency. The CERFPs' components still retain their wartime missions, said a National Guard Bureau spokesman. They have simply increased their skills to make them

▶ The first live interceptor missile is lowered into its silo at Fort Greely, where the Alaska Guard plays a major role in national missile defense.



▲ Fort Greely, long an important training site for both active and reserve-component units in Alaska, is now a primary missile-defense site.

extremely useful during a domestic emergency.

That was why Exercise Vital Guardian was considered so important. It is also why other training exercises have been held at Marine Corps Base Quantico, in Virginia, and elsewhere in the country.

“Every one of these teams will be stretched beyond its limits on purpose. It’s a deliberate stressing of the capabilities to find out how far Soldiers can go before they break,” Blum said.

“What we’re training for is what we hope never happens. I think we’re recognizing that the world has changed and we need to change some of our capabilities to be more relevant for the newly changed world,” he added. “This is something I want the American people to know: The National Guard is ready to serve.

“And it is on duty, in the name of homeland defense, in Alaska — at Fort Greely, where the Alaska Guard’s 49th Missile Defense Bn. plays a key

role in the national missile-defense program announced by President George W. Bush in 2002,” Blum said.

For the 300-member battalion, getting its second National Guard commander, LTC Ted Hildreth, was a significant milestone — it signaled the long-term importance of the National Guard to the country, said battalion spokesman LTC Hunt Kerrigan.

Nine ground-based interceptor missiles capable of destroying missiles aimed at any target in the United States have so far been installed in underground silos on a revitalized section of the fort, situated about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks.

Each interceptor would release a “kill vehicle” designed to hit an incoming missile in mid-course, or about 100 miles in space. The “kill vehicle” would be like a bullet hitting a bullet at a speed of more than 10,000 mph.

Fort Greely is considered an ideal location for the missile site, because the interceptors could track and destroy ballistic missiles fired from Asia and the Middle East, especially from North Korea, China, Russia and Iran. Also, Fort Greely is a secluded, sparsely populated region that allows for wide-

ranging tests.

The battalion is part of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, which is based in Colorado Springs, Colo., and commanded by Colorado Army Guard COL Michael Yowell.

“The Guard here in Alaska has done a marvelous job of standing up this unit, committing it to this mission,” said MG Larry Dodgen, commander of the Army’s Space and Missile Defense Command.

“I believe there are enduring homeland-security issues that we need the National Guard to do, and this is one that they have embraced and done very well,” Dodgen added.

The Guard Soldiers also understand that homeland defense is a traditional mission for the National Guard and that they have to be prepared for the worst.

“I am actually one of the operators who sits on the system. I think it is very important to the nation’s security,” said SPC Josh Wheeler. “There’s a big threat out there, and it could come at any time, so we need to be prepared.”



Guard on the Fro

National Guard Women in Iraq

Story by MSG Bob Haskell

YOU have to take your hat off to Leigh Ann Hester. You have to give a large measure of respect to Lorie Jewell. You have to pause when you hear that nine of the 365 Army National Guard Soldiers who have died during Operation Iraqi Freedom are women.

They all help us to understand how this country's 21st-century war against terrorism has rewritten many of the rules that most Americans associate with armed conflict at the same time that it has enabled the entire Army National Guard to demonstrate its mettle.

This war against a faceless foe has crossed just about every line that this

country has ever drawn when it comes to women in combat. Granted, women are still prohibited from serving in the infantry, artillery and armor. That, however, has not prevented them from venturing into harm's way as military police officers and journalists, or from making the supreme sacrifice during this war in which every community and every stretch of road in Iraq is the battlefield.

Hester, from the Kentucky Army Guard's 617th Military Police Company, was awarded a Silver Star for her part in breaking up the ambush of a coalition convoy in March 2005. She was 23 when she became the first

female Soldier to receive the award since World War II — and the first to receive it for taking offensive action against an enemy. Her picture is on the cover of the 2005-2006 Army Green Book, the annual almanac published by the Association of the United States Army.

Jewell, a civilian daily newspaper reporter and member of the Florida Army Guard's 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, was 41 when she earned a Combat Action Badge. She was named the Defense Department's best military print journalist for 2005 during her deployment.

Both Hester and Jewell help demonstrate how the National Guard is more heavily engaged in combat than at any time since World War II.

By Army standards, the degree of Guard participation has been significant, even though the total does not approach the number of Guard Soldiers who fought in Europe and in the Pacific more than six decades ago.

As of May 31, 143,471 Guard Soldiers had served during OIF, with 35,669 still on duty in-theater, according to the Army Guard's Readiness Center.

While female Soldiers don't serve in infantry, armor or artillery units, they do see combat as military police officers.

SSG Sarayuth Pinthong



ntline

In late 2004 and 2005, nine brigades, half of the combat brigades serving in Iraq, belonged to the Army Guard.

The 42nd Infantry Division from New York became the first Guard division to deploy to a combat zone since the Korean War when its headquarters shipped out for a year in Iraq in October 2004.

The 42nd commanded Task Force Liberty, which included Guard infantry brigades from Idaho and Tennessee and two active Army brigades from the 3rd Inf. Div. The New York division replaced the 1st Armored Div. and preceded the 101st Airborne Div. in securing the north-central sector of Iraq.

In all, 4,000 42nd Inf. Div. personnel — from headquarters companies, military intelligence and military police battalions, the 42nd Aviation Bde., and armor, signal, field artillery and combat-support elements — deployed.

It has been a remarkable success



story, said LTG H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. The Guard has been there since OIF was launched in March 2003, when 3,729 Soldiers from three Army Guard brigades — the 53rd from Florida, the 76th from Indiana, and the 41st from Oregon — participated in OIF-1.

But the Guard has paid a heavy price while proving that it can hold its own with its active-Army counterpart. Through June 5, 365 Army Guard Soldiers had become Iraqi Freedom casualties since March 31, 2003. August and September 2005 have been the two costliest months. Twenty-three Guard Soldiers died last August. Twenty-four perished in September.

SPC Michelle Witmer, a military

▲ Florida Army National Guard SSG Lorie Jewell made many friends in the Iraqi army and police during her year in-country.

police Soldier from Wisconsin, became the first Army Guard woman to be killed in combat when she died in Baghdad on April 9, 2004. The Army Guard has since listed eight more OIF female fatalities.

Female Soldiers who have been there and come back reflect the same range of emotions as many men do — frustration, satisfaction and melancholy — about serving in a combat zone.

“I volunteered to go without my Florida National Guard unit after learning about the command, its mission and its urgent need for a military journalist,” said Jewell, who, as far as she knew, was the only National Guard Soldier serving with the Multi-National Security Transition Command–Iraq.

“The oppor-

As of May 31, 143,471 National Guard Soldiers had served during OIF, with 35,669 still on duty in-theater, officials said.





▲ Female Soldiers have filled a variety of important roles in Iraq, and have at the same time sought to reach out to the nation's civilian populace.

tunity to show through words and photographs what U.S. and coalition forces were doing to help rebuild Iraq's military and police forces was something I couldn't pass up," she said. "Fortunately, my overall experience was more positive than negative. I don't regret going over there for one minute. Never in my life have I felt like I was contributing to something greater than myself than I did in Iraq."

And, yes, she has had to deal with her own post-deployment emotions.

"One of the hardest things about going over as an individual is coming home alone, leaving friends and colleagues behind," said Jewell, after returning to her civilian job at the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune. "I have a hard time watching the news. It only makes me worry about my comrades. Life seems more leisurely now and, sometimes, I feel a little bit guilty that I'm at home and they aren't. But I know it won't be that way forever."

Jewell's reflections are based on

her experiences over an entire year. Hester's acclaim is grounded in a single incident — the insurgents' attack against a convoy of 30 tractor-trailer trucks on March 20, 2005. She was one of eight Kentucky Guard Soldiers who charged to the rescue in three vehicles to break up the attack and kill or capture the attackers.

Her Silver Star citation indicates Hester directed the gunner in her vehicle to focus fire on a dozen insurgents in a trench and orchard as she dismounted and threw grenades into the trench. She then killed three insurgents with her M-4 rifle.

Two other members of her unit earned the Silver Star that day. Three received the Bronze Star with "V" devices, and two got Army Commendation Medals with "V" devices.

Her gender may have been the reason that Hester garnered more attention than most Silver Star recipients receive, but she has no problem keeping the episode in perspective.

"It doesn't have anything to do with being a female," she said during her award ceremony. "It's about the duties I performed that day as a Soldier." 🇺🇸

The National Guard in Afghanistan

Story by SGT Jim Greenhill

SINCE 2003, with the formation of Task Force Phoenix, hundreds of National Guard Soldiers from many different states have trained soldiers for the Afghan National Army.

The goal is to develop the ANA into a force capable of defeating terrorists within Afghanistan, by preventing them from threatening the Afghan people or using Afghanistan to launch their attacks. In 2005 the ANA ensured the security of the first free election in Afghanistan's history.

Among the ANA's National Guard mentors were members of the Oklahoma Army Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade, which stood up TF Phoenix three years ago.

"This was the most important tasking the 45th has been given since the Korean War," said BG Thomas Mancino, the brigade's commander. "The success or failure of this mission will have a direct affect on the future of Afghanistan and the relationship

SGT Jim Greenhill works in the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office.

between the United States and the Muslim world.”

Many Afghan troops were already combat veterans. The Guard professionalized them by putting them through the equivalent of Basic Combat Training, creating a noncommissioned officer corps, teaching Afghans how to manage ranges and training areas, and how to lead at the brigade level.

“When ANA soldiers go into the community, they are showing the local people how much things are changing for the better in Afghanistan,” said SGM Stephen Guion, who led an embedded training team.

The ANA soldiers not only believe in what they do, they also believe in the future of Afghanistan. It is their army. “I’m just honored to see the beginning phases of it,” said Guion.

“The Afghan people could have no better partners in building their new army than these National Guard units that carry on the lineage of the Minutemen who stepped forward in our country’s time of need some 229 years ago, to create the U.S. Army,” said retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, chief of the Office of Military Cooperation–Afghanistan.

The embedded trainers have included senior leaders from the National Guard Bureau. Other National Guard Soldiers — hand picked because of their civilian police experience and maturity — also have trained Afghan police leaders.

Present From the Start

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been in Afghanistan since

➤ Soldiers from the Virginia Guard’s Company B, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, patrol a village near Bagram Air Base.

the first shots were fired in the war on terrorism.

Guard Soldiers, such as those in Florida’s 930th Army Liaison Team, have also helped with communications between the U.S. military and coalition forces from more than 20 other countries.

National Guard units have provided high-altitude medical evacuations, combat airdrops, public affairs as-

sistance and vehicle maintenance. The Guard has provided security, escorted convoys, cleared mines dating back to the Soviet occupation, provided air transportation, run air-terminal operations, established water supplies and wastewater disposal, erected buildings, and built runways and miles of roads through forbidding desert.

LTG H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said a 76-

SGT Christopher Kaufmann





SPC Harold Fields

▶ A Soldier of the Texas Guard's 141st Inf. Regt. treats a simulated casualty during an exercise near Bagram Air Base.

mile road connecting Kandahar with Tarin Kwot was an important Guard achievement.

"It is transforming military victory into strategic success," Blum said. "It will allow the Afghan government to reach its citizenry in remote rural areas. That was made possible by National Guard engineers, who are doing remarkable work."

An Army of One

"In this environment, from what I've seen I can't tell the difference between active duty and National Guard, and I'm pretty proud to say that," said SFC Eric Vogelsang, a Massachusetts Guard military policeman.

He was referring to Guard Soldiers, such as those of Virginia's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, who conducted dozens of combat missions, including long-range patrols, over thousands of square miles of Afghanistan's remote desert terrain; worked with military and community leaders; detained Taliban and al-Qaeda operatives; and captured or destroyed enemy weapons. Some of the captured weapons have

since been issued to the ANA.

"To get weapons from the militia and transfer them to the Afghan National Army is an immense contribution toward providing peace and security for the Afghan people," said Weston, the military cooperation chief.

In 2002 the Oregon Guard's 1042nd Medical Company provided all the medical-evacuation assets in theater.

It's not only Soldiers who have been helped. Just as it does at home in the United States, the National Guard has brought medical and humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.

Reaching Out

Guard medics have treated Afghans. Sometimes, a National Guard doctor has been the first doctor an Afghan has ever seen. One Guard doctor even arranged for two Afghan children to receive stateside heart surgeries without cost to U.S. taxpayers.

National Guard Soldiers found Afghan school children sitting on rocks instead of chairs and lacking basic supplies. So they arranged for money to be collected back home to purchase

and donate the supplies.

Military trucks packed with donations have pulled up at Afghan orphanages to help children.

"If you do something good and leave an impression with them, then your good deed will live on," said CPT Scott Taylor, a Florida National Guard special forces Soldier.

Louisiana National Guard Soldiers adopted a village, bringing school supplies, blankets, coats and other donations to Turkman, which was ravaged by years of turmoil and drought.

"We are so happy with the United States," said Sarwar Khan, a town elder. "The Soldiers have brought not only peace to the people of Afghanistan, they share what they have with us. We are so happy they are here."

"I'm glad we took the time to get involved with the local culture," said SPC Sabrina Monn, after her Pennsylvania public affairs detachment helped an Afghan village. "We have carried on the work that the unit before us started, and hopefully the torch will be passed to our replacements."

Lesson Shared

Just as the Guard has passed on its traditions dating back to its first muster, in Massachusetts in 1636, so Guard members have passed along the idea of going the extra mile for members of the ANA.

Mirroring the Guard, the ANA has learned to show fellow Afghans that they'll be there for them, beyond battling terrorists.

The ANA's 3rd Brigade, for ex-

ample, sponsors the Kabul Children's Hospital. ANA soldiers have installed heaters, cleaned, painted and handed out candy and gifts.

"I like seeing the people and bringing gifts and supplies to the sick children," said Mohammad Khan, a 3rd Bde. soldier.

"We've been very successful in Afghanistan," Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told U.S. Soldiers on a visit to the country. "It's been a wonderful thing to see the faces on the Afghan people who have been liberated and are able to play music, take off their burqahs, and go to school and to work. For a country that is suddenly free, this has to make all of you who have been involved feel very, very good."

The Price of Freedom

The Guard has paid a price for its success.



SPC Johnny R. Aragon

► A Soldier of the Guard's 29th Inf. Division takes up a security position during an air-assault insertion into the Ajristan District of Ghazni Province.

Through May 15, 24 Army Guard Soldiers had died during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and six more who supported OEF in other theaters died. The Guard's first Afghanistan casualty was SFC Daniel Romero, 30, of the Colorado Army National Guard, killed April 15, 2002.

Additionally, Florida Army National Guard SGT Roy Wood, an emergency room surgeon at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Fla., gave up his major's rank so he could serve as a special forces medic. He died in Afghanistan on Jan. 2, 2004.

LTC Frank Tate was operations officer for a task force that controlled all conventional-force aviation in Afghanistan. Almost half of the 2,000 members of JTF Wings were Guard or Reserve troops.

"The military recognized years ago that all the services had to start working together," Tate said. "Here in Afghanistan you are starting to see the benefit of years of joint preparations. More common terminology, more common systems and more common equipment allow us to work together without the major hiccups of the past. We don't have the power alone, but together we can get any mission accomplished, anywhere." 🇺🇸

◀ CPT Matt Pintur of the Illinois Guard's 33rd Area Support Group helps an Afghan girl try on a new hat during a village assistance visit.



SSG Joseph P. Collins Jr.

"Here in Afghanistan you're starting to see the benefits of years of joint preparation ... together we can get any mission accomplished, anywhere."



Outlook on the Reser

by LTG Jack Stultz

THE Army Reserve is in the midst of the most profound change in its 98-year history. Yesterday's Army Reserve was a strategic reserve, in which Soldiers attended "assemblies" one weekend a month and pulled two weeks of active duty in the summer. The expectation was that Reserve forces would be called upon only in the event of another world war. Many people believed Reserve units would have advance warning and plenty of time to mobilize and train before responding. That changed in the mid-1990s as Reservists were deployed more frequently for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

The events of 2001 further accelerated the demand for Army Reserve forces. Since 9/11, more than 153,000 Reserve Soldiers have been called to active duty to support operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Reserve Soldiers have also played an integral role in relief operations at home, assisting in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Our challenge is to maintain the current level of support to operations at home and abroad, while changing our structure to better serve the Soldier and the nation as a whole.

Through the years, the Army Reserve created table-of-distribution-and-allowance-type organizations, like regional readiness commands and other headquarters, which are not part

of the modified-table-of-equipment, or deployable, force. The non-deployable TDA units were created to take care of the force at home.

Over the past year we have transformed nondeployable assets into deployable assets to support the war on terrorism. Our focus in the coming year will be to continue converting the Reserve's deployable forces into 58 modular, brigade-based formations.

Coinciding with the conversion, the Reserve is transforming its Regional Readiness Command structure. Its 10 RRCs, which have prepared units for mobilization and provided



base-operations support for units, are being inactivated as we reinvest in the Reserve deployable force. The Army Reserve is not reducing its size, but rather restructuring spaces and placing Soldiers into warfighting units.

We are doing the same thing with the headquarters structures for the training divisions. This transformation will not occur overnight, but in phases,

and should be complete by 2011.

Our greatest concern has been, and will remain, the well-being of Soldiers. The Army Reserve has an obligation to get the message out to our Soldiers that the Army and the Army Reserve are transforming to accomplish two objectives: provide a force to fight the war on terror and provide a better career path for our Soldiers.

The foundation for these objectives is the Army Force Generation model, in conjunction with the Army Reserve Expeditionary Force model. ARFORGEN is a process that moves units through phases in order to reset, train, achieve mission readiness and be available for deployment. The Army Reserve model applies this process over a five-year cycle. Under the AREF model, a Soldier would expect to mobilize and deploy every five years. Our intent is to provide our Soldiers a sense of predictability and stability. We can never guarantee them five years between call-ups, however, because the strategic environment is unpredictable.

Some of this transformation will be transparent and some of it will not. While Soldiers do not need to be overly concerned with the intricacies of the AREF model, we do want them to know where they fit in. The last thing I want is for a Soldier at the platoon or squad level to say, "I am not sure I understand why I am here." Each Soldier needs to understand exactly what his job is and where he fits into the mission.

Soldiers also need to understand

LTG Jack Stultz is the chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

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the significance of the AREF timeline, so they know where their units stand in the process. As an example, that the unit is in year one of what's called the "reset" phase, which means the unit is sending people to school to get qualified or requalified, and the unit likely doesn't have a lot of equipment on hand, because it is being refurbished.

When Soldiers understand their jobs, their units' missions and where in the AREF process they are, they'll be better able to focus on what's most relevant at the time.

Other changes for the Army Reserve result from Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions. The Army Reserve will lose 176 Army Reserve centers and build 125 new, state-of-the-art joint facilities. We will share these facilities with the reserve components of other services, depending on the forces in the region.

Making them joint facilities allows us to put in more collective resources that will serve a greater number of service members and their families. These first-class facilities will contain fitness centers and provide available billeting for assembly weekends. Others will have distance-learning centers, where a Soldier can attend a military school without having to leave home.

Soldiers decide to join the Army Reserve with the love and support of their families. That is the thrust behind our efforts to allow for a more stable and predictable system of deployment; the Soldier owes predictability and stability to his family. And the Army owes those things to the Soldier. 🇺🇸

MIRC to Improve Army Reserve Intelligence



As the Army continues the global war on terrorism, it strives to improve its capabilities by forming new organizations. One of those is the Military Intelligence Readiness Command at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The MIRC's objective is to improve the readiness of Army Reserve military-intelligence Soldiers and units, said MG George Fay, the Department of the Army's deputy security officer.

"Ultimately, the MIRC is our opportunity to do just that — to provide increased readiness of the Reserve MI force by providing trained and ready Soldiers and units," he said.

As a long-serving Reserve officer and former deputy commander of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fay has witnessed a key challenge to Army Reserve intelligence — the need to turn out highly skilled Soldiers so that they are ready when called upon. However, there is limited time to train Soldiers in a part-time capacity. The MIRC was formed to meet this challenge. But how exactly will the MIRC accomplish its objective?

COL Dorothy Perkins, former chief of manpower and reserve affairs for U.S. European Command, envisions the MIRC as a command that completely manages the Army Reserve MI force — recruiting and training Soldiers to do their jobs, making units ready to deploy, and creating a force structure to allow Soldiers to grow, mature, be promoted and assume higher-level responsibilities.

Before the MIRC's creation there was no organization solely responsible for recruiting and training Army Reserve MI Soldiers, nor were there clear career paths for Soldiers to determine subsequent assignments for further professional development. Soldiers were themselves responsible for finding units to which they would be assigned, and for determining on their own where their next assignments would be if their present units had no vacancies. The MIRC's charge is to provide training and development opportunities for Soldiers in a more deliberate manner.

MIRC units are always "in the fight" and provide ongoing intelligence support to active Army units worldwide. During the global war on terrorism, some units deploy while others support from Army Reserve Intelligence Support Centers (ARISC) throughout the United States. Although not deployed, these Soldiers provide valuable intelligence support to forward-deployed units through the use of technology.

"The ability for units in the field to make use of Army Reserve MI assets is more important than ever," Perkins said. "Commanders in the field easily understand having a central point of contact to obtain MI support.

"The MIRC will ensure the Army Reserve will optimally meet the warfighter's needs for that support and determine the specific needs of the warfighter to meet intelligence strategies and requirements. The MIRC's existence has both an immediate and lasting impact on improved support to the warfighter," he said.

The MIRC is already having a positive impact by establishing working relationships with warfighters to improve intelligence support from the Army Reserve. The MIRC is also identifying innovative ways to train Soldiers, given limited time and resources.

Fay sees the MIRC as enabling the Army Reserve MI force to have a stronger voice, both in the Army intelligence community and the broader intelligence community.

"The MIRC will be able to conduct focused intelligence training and assignments for the entire Army Reserve MI force," he said. "The MIRC will be more agile and flexible to the ever changing needs and requirements of the Army."

With the increased emphasis on intelligence support, the MIRC will play a key role in attempting to influence and respond to requirements, policy decisions and changes that directly affect Army Reserve MI Soldiers.

There is lots of work to be done, but the end result is to train Soldiers to be ready when the nation calls for them. The MIRC is committed to this mission. — LTC Michael Sands

LTC Michael Sands works in the Military Intelligence Readiness Command Public Affairs Office.

A Long and Proud History

Story by Dr. Lee Harford

THE Army Reserve can trace its roots as a reserve force to 1756 and the beginning of the French and Indian War. A U.S. “national” force of Soldiers fought in that war up to 1763. “Federal volunteers,” as they were then known, also fought in the Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, and the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection from 1892 to 1902.

Throughout this period, the central government — initially British royal and then U.S. congressional — organized and maintained a

group of citizen-soldiers only during wartime.

Problems with mobilizing Soldiers during the last of these conflicts caused the nation’s leaders to establish a formal structure for federal volunteers during peacetime.

The official predecessor of the Army Reserve, created in 1908 and subsequently titled the Organized Reserve Corps, produced, in reality, a peacetime pool of trained Reserve officers and enlisted men, which the Army mobilized as individual replacements for units in the world wars of the 20th century.

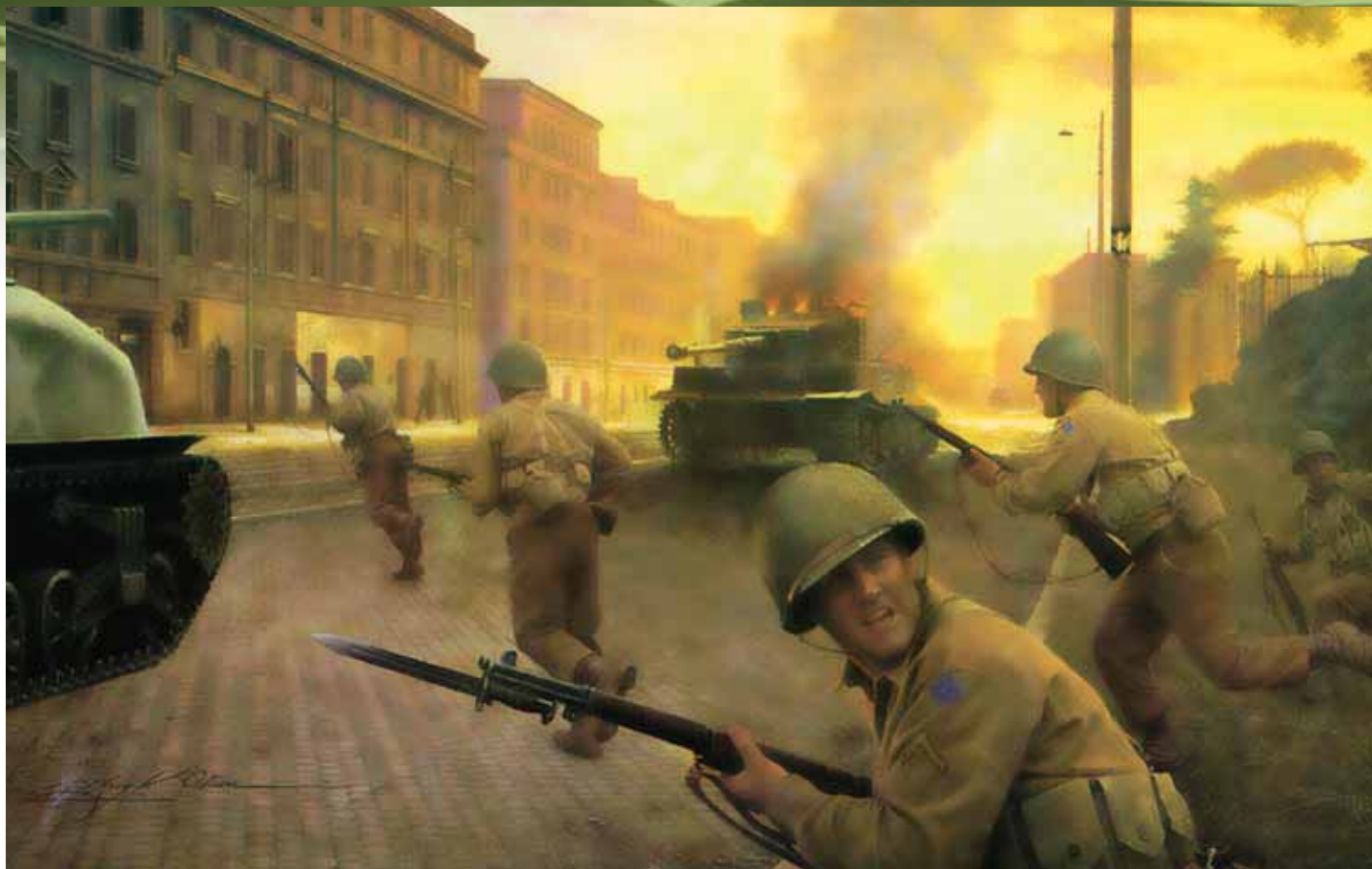


The Strategic “Unready” Reserve: 1916-1960s

In 1916, using its constitutional authority to “raise and support armies,” Congress passed the National Defense Act, which created the Officers’ Reserve Corps, Enlisted Reserve Corps

Dr. Lee Harford works in the Office of Army Reserve History at the U.S. Army Reserve Command, Fort McPherson, Ga.

◀ The citizens of the revolutionary period distrusted large standing armies, preferring instead to rely — at least initially — on local militias.



and Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The Army mobilized 89,500 Reserve officers for World War I between 1917 and 1919, one-third of whom were medical doctors.

More than 80,000 enlisted Reserve Soldiers served, with 15,000 assigned to medical units. After the war, the separate Reserve corps for officers and enlisted men was combined into the Organized Reserve Corps, a name that lasted into the 1950s.

During the interwar period, the Army planned for an organized Reserve force of 33 divisions, existing either as units on paper or in a cadre status. The years between the world wars were austere, with few opportunities for training.

A contingency for service, however, was created during the Great Depression. One of President Theodore Roosevelt's New Deal programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps, placed young men in barracks and military-

style organizations to work in national forests and participate in other outdoor projects.

Between 1933 and 1939 more than 30,000 Reserve officers served as commanders or staff officers at 2,700 conservation-corps camps.

Reserve participation in the American defense effort began before the United States entered World War II in December 1941. The Army had begun calling Reserve officers to active duty in June 1940. In the year that followed, the number of Reserve officers on active duty rose from less than 3,000 to more than 57,000. Between 1941 and 1945 the Army mobilized 26 Reserve-designated infantry divisions.

Approximately a quarter of all Army officers who served were Army Reserve Soldiers, including more than 100,000 Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduates. More than 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers served in the war. Recognizing the importance of

▲ Between 1941 and 1945 the Army mobilized 26 Reserve-designated infantry divisions. More than 200,000 Reserve Soldiers served in the war.

the organized Reserve to the war effort, Congress authorized retirement and drill pay for the first time in 1948.

During the Korean War more than 240,000 Reserve Soldiers were called to active duty. That large number reflected the Army's need for organized, trained personnel in a short period of time. More than 70 Reserve units served in Korea. While the Korean War was still under way, Congress began making significant changes in the structure and role of the Reserve. These changes transformed the organized Reserve into the U.S. Army Reserve. This new organization was divided into a ready Reserve, a standby Reserve and a retired Reserve.

Reserve units were authorized 24





▲ During the Korean War more than 240,000 Reserve Soldiers were called to active duty, and more than 70 Reserve units of all sizes served in Korea.

inactive duty training days a year and up to 17 days of active duty, or annual training. The president was given authority to order up to one million Army Reserve Soldiers of all military specialties to active duty.

These congressional actions were directly related to experiences gained during the activation and subsequent service of Army Reserve units in the Korean War. Also, in mobilizations following the Korean War, the Army for the first time maintained the integrity of mobilized Reserve units.

As a standard, officers and enlisted men were not stripped out of organized units and sent into operations as replacements. Instead, the Army attempted to mobilize and deploy fully trained and manned Reserve units at the start of the conflict. Thus, the lessons learned from the Korean War set the precedent for readiness of all Army Reserve organizations in future call-ups.

The Operational “Ready” Reserve: 1970s — 2005

By the 1970s the Army Reserve had become increasingly combat-support and combat-service-support oriented. The end of the draft coincided with the 1973 announcement of the Total Force Policy, which called for the United States to maintain an active-duty force capable of maintaining peace and deterring aggression. Those forces would be reinforced, when necessary, by a well-trained, well-equipped reserve component consisting of the National Guard and Reserve.

An all-volunteer active Army and the Total Force Policy resulted in a shift of some responsibilities and resources to the Army Reserve. In the post-Cold War period, the major restructuring of the Army’s reserve components — known as the “1993 Off-site Agreement” — stabilized reserve-component force structure and end-strength reductions, thereby making it possible for the Army to rely more heavily on the reserve component.

The National Guard became the focal point for combat arms, and the Army Reserve specialized in combat support and combat service support.


Meanwhile, the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait led to the largest call-up of reserve-component forces since the Korean War for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. More than 84,000 Reserve Soldiers provided combat support and combat service support to forces fighting Iraq in the Persian Gulf and support to U.S. forces elsewhere in the world. Of that number, more than 40,000 Reserve Soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia, among them 20,000 members of the Individual Ready Reserve, who filled vacancies in units or performed other specialized duties.

Reserve Soldiers were among the first reserve-component personnel called to active duty and were among the last to leave the desert, with units and volunteers preparing equipment for return to the United States or Europe long after the conflict ended.

Since Operation Desert Storm, more recent mobilizations of Army Reserve Soldiers for peacekeeping

contingencies — including 20,000 Reservists in Bosnia and Kosovo and the initial phase of the war on terrorism — have strayed somewhat from the post-Korean War precedent.

Instead of deploying entire units, because of caps on the numbers of Army Reserve Soldiers called up, Army Reserve leaders mobilized parts of units to meet the requirements of the combatant commanders.

Despite such challenges, the Army Reserve had, as of April 19, 2006, mobilized approximately 150,796 Soldiers for war-on-terror operations in support of the ongoing war on terrorism. 

➤ As of April 2006, the Army Reserve had mobilized approximately 150,796 Soldiers for war-on-terror operations worldwide.





After the Hur



SFC Gwendolyn D. Coley

Army Reserve units played a vital role in the rescue and recovery effort that followed Hurricane Katrina.

Story by MSG Richard Lambert, SFC Qwendolyn D. Coley and Chuck Prichard

DISASTER relief is not traditionally an Army Reserve mission, but that didn't keep Reservists from responding to the call for help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Army Reserve units got involved in the early stages of the relief effort and remain engaged in long-term recovery efforts in New Orleans and other hard-hit areas.

Company B, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, was the first Army Reserve unit to arrive on the scene. The unit's 12 pilots flew five CH-47 Chinook helicopters from Fort Eustis, Va., to New Orleans Naval Air Station on Sept. 5, 2005, arriving at the base at about 10 p.m. They started flying missions early the next day. And by day's

▶ SSG Brian Ogle helps members of a FEMA search team carry their boat to a CH-47 of Company B, 5th Battalion, 159th Avn. Regt. The company was the first Army Reserve unit to arrive in the hurricane-ravaged region.





Chuck Prichard

end they had rescued 93 people.

The most dramatic pick-up of the first day demonstrated the fluid nature of the unit's mission. After dropping a rescue team, one Chinook was headed to another mission when the pilot received an urgent radio call requesting evacuation of residents from a neighborhood where floodwater was rising. The helicopter was near the affected area, so the crew answered the call.

Despite having no radio communication with the rescue crew on the ground, the pilots were able to avoid several obstacles and land the

▶ At a staging area near Lake Ponchartrain, a 159th Avn. Regt. Chinook picks up three large sandbags that will be dropped into a levee breach.

▶ Soldiers of the Reserve's 206th Transportation Co. turn a pallet of MREs before loading them aboard a waiting truck.

Chinook on a highway overpass. The rescue team used amphibious vehicles to bring out 26 residents. The helicopter crew delivered them to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

"It's hard to do something like this and not feel good about it," said LTC Vincent Mercadante, commander of the 5th Bn. "We don't get a lot of interaction with the people, because we generally pick them up and drop them off pretty quickly. But their handshakes and big smiles let us know that they appreciate what we do."

Two days after returning home from Katrina the unit was called again to support Hurricane Rita clean-up and was later put on standby for Hurricane Wilma.

At the end of the 2005-2006 hurricane season the unit had saved hundreds of storm victims, flown 665 hours in 38 days, transported more

SFC Gwendolyn D. Coley





MSG Richard Lambert

than 2,000 urban search-and-rescue team members, and placed more than 10.4 million pounds of reconstruction materials in breached levees.

While the 159th's helicopters were flying in the aftermath of Katrina, some other Army Reserve units were providing vital services on the ground. About 300 Army Reserve Soldiers from the devastated region supported two transportation companies, hauling food, water and personnel.

The 647th Transportation Company from Laurel, Miss., and the 206th Trans. Co. from Opelika, Ala., put drivers behind the steering wheels of some borrowed two-and-a-half-ton trucks and headed into the flooded streets of New Orleans. They were augmented by members of other Reserve transportation companies from Mississippi and Alabama.

Many of the Soldiers reporting for the mission left behind their own

storm-damaged homes to help others.

"When these guys were called up, they didn't have power. They didn't have water," said LTC Bruce Cain, commander of the 356th Quartermaster Bn., from Laurel, which had command and control of the 647th and the 206th. "It really created hardships for them, but they did what they were supposed to do."

The missions included hauling food and water from the USS *Tortugas* to relief workers at Naval Air Station New Orleans and to the Marines in Slidell, La.; transporting 1st Cavalry Division and 82nd Airborne Div. Soldiers to and from the airport; refueling vehicles for the many missions; and providing cooks and helpers for a makeshift kitchen that fed thousands of relief workers.

Today, CW2 Donald McRae remains in the area for the longer term. "If the parish has a problem,

▲ CW2 Donald McRae of the 94th Regional Readiness Command takes notes on the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

I coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers to fix it," said McRae, an engineer with the 94th Regional Readiness Command. "There are 70 Corps workers in Plaquemines Parish, and I am their pipeline to the parish.

"All the government agencies — including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, COE and the Coast Guard — and the parish members themselves are working together to get Louisiana back to normal," McRae said. 🇺🇸



Training the Fo

Story Courtesy Army Reserve Public Affairs

BESIDES several hundred U.S. Army Reserve centers that accommodate Reservists attending their monthly assemblies, the Reserve also operates several training facilities in the United States, including Fort Dix, N.J., and Fort McCoy, Wis.

Nearly 72,000 Reservists have been trained at, deployed from or demobilized at Fort Dix since the beginning of the war on terror. Leaders cite the post's location for allowing realistic training that prepares Soldiers for war.

Trainers and observer-controllers from the 78th Division at Fort Dix, composed of active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, have trained some 111,000 Soldiers from units on the East Coast.

Additionally, some 36,000 Soldiers from about 700 units have been mobilized and demobilized from Fort McCoy, one of the Army's 15 power-projection platforms, since Sept. 11, 2001.

Fort McCoy is a year-round training site for roughly 130,000 military personnel annually from all branches of the armed forces. A benefit of the training is that it offers the varied climates and weather conditions of four seasons, plus 60,000 acres of varied terrain and ample accommodations.



Rob Schuette



▲ Members of the 318th Maint. Co. work on a Humvee engine as part of Operation Platinum Wrench, a Reserve-directed mission that gives Reserve Soldiers hands-on maintenance training.

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Since Sept. 11, 2001, some 36,000 Soldiers from about 700 units have been mobilized and demobilized from Fort McCoy, Wis., one of the Army's 15 power-projection platforms.

Loni Witscheber

Reserve Soldiers from New York practice building-clearing techniques during predeployment training at Fort McCoy.



Doctors Teach Frontline Skills

Story and Photo by MAJ Richard Bailey

SIXTEEN Soldiers from the Emergency Medical Treatment and Operating Room sections of the 399th Combat Support Hospital and the 912th Forward Surgical Team participated in an important training program conducted at Surgi-Care Inc. in Waltham, Mass., on Sept. 16, 2005.

Organized by the 399th's COL Arnold Scheller and CPT Peter Russo, the training was intended to familiarize the Reservists with situations they might encounter if deployed to a combat theater of operations.

Scheller and fellow surgeons MAJ Timothy Counihan, commander of the 912th FST, and Navy Reserve Capt. Glenn Ross, were the primary instructors of the course. The training was developed in response to the need for more dynamic medical training at echelon 2 and 3 care levels.

"Our goal is to have medical providers — from colonel to specialist — in the emergency-medicine continuum have knowledge of, and familiarity with, the techniques and procedures commonly seen in battlefield orthopedic medicine," said Scheller.

He said that 70 to 80 percent of combat injuries involve damage to arm or leg bones. He added that using external fixation devices is the surgeon-preferred method to stabilize badly injured patients who are being moved between treatment facilities.

After an initial safety briefing, the trainees were given a presentation by Scheller and Counihan on lessons learned in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The trainees then moved to a dry lab where they were given

MAJ Richard Bailey is assigned to the 399th Combat Support Hospital.



▲ SGT Jonathan Alicea, SPC Sheanna Isabel and CPT Jennifer Callahan examine an external-fixation device during the training event.

a step-by-step demonstration on the proper placement of external-fixation devices on simulated skeletons that mimic the feel of natural bones. After the dry lab, the trainees moved to the wet lab, where they were able to practice the same process on a cadaver leg.

Counihan then used one of the cadaver legs to hold an impromptu class on vascular and muscular anatomy. He demonstrated some common surgical techniques that the Soldiers would see in a combat environment.

Stryker Orthopedics, an external fixation device manufacturer, and Surgi-Care, Inc. donated more than \$6,000 in equipment, supplies and facilities to the day's event. 🇺🇸

The installation boasts an urban-assault complex, 27 firing ranges, maneuver corridors for artillery and Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, a combat air-assault strip, an 8,000-acre impact area and 46,000 acres of maneuver area.

The Army has invested about \$152 million in Fort McCoy since the mid 1990s for construction of buildings and ranges, and \$22 million for communications improvements. It also invests \$23 million annually in infrastructure maintenance and repair.

Fort Dix is getting some facility improvements, too, to better serve Soldiers. To streamline the process of mobilization, a new aircraft ramp

is being constructed, and when a new pallet-building facility is completed this year C-5, 747 and C-17 aircraft will be able to park on the ramp that's linked to McGuire Air Force Base.

The nearly \$13-million project will allow Soldiers to walk to their shipping-out point to prepare their equipment for shipment and fly out to their designated theaters of operation, all from one location.

Soldiers from the Air Departure and Arrival Control Group are another post asset. They stand by to immediately send Soldiers overseas or receive them home. At the end of 2005, ADACG Soldiers worked around the clock for three weeks to receive nearly

5,000 Soldiers and their equipment.

"We have a dedicated and experienced military and civilian workforce. Many of the workers are veterans, and our military trainers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, we have the ability to replicate different theaters of operations around the world, based on Soldiers' first-hand knowledge. These are just some of the reasons why nobody does mobilization better," said COL David McNeil, Fort Dix's installation commander.

Besides Fort Dix and Fort McCoy, the Army Reserve operates training facilities at Fort Devens, Mass., Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., and Camp Parks, Calif. 🇺🇸

Paintball: Specialized Training Methods

Story and Photo by Jack Gordon

A DIRECT hit sounds like an egg cracking against a wall. A round, soft-skinned pellet filled with paint strikes the Kevlar helmet of the Soldier whose facial features are barely discernable beneath a black plastic safety mask.

Splat! The paintball pellet finds its mark, and, although it's only paint, the impact and reality factor of a head-and-face strike during this training produces an audible cry from the Soldier, who dutifully falls to the ground as all of the Soldiers undergoing the training are instructed to do if hit.

In this phase, the Soldier who was hit has been "killed." If the head strike had been real, the Soldier would have sustained severe wounds, even with Kevlar protection.

Approximately 70 Soldiers from various units of the 99th Regional Readiness Command traveled to Breezewood, Pa., recently, to undergo a block of training conducted by the command's Operations and Training section. The specialized training is for Soldiers headed to the dangerous highways of Iraq.

Conceptualized, developed and implemented by the 99th RRC, convoy-security lane training is now incorporated into the unit-validation process of every Army Reserve unit at its designated mobilization site. The ability to conduct convoy-security operations is a critical aspect of learning how to survive in Iraq, Army officials have said.

The training has three phases — classroom study in standard-operating procedures of convoy operations, including things like potential-threat briefings for the convoy route, attack- and ambush-reaction-and-response plans, and rally and consolidation points.

The rules of engagement are simple: "If you feel threatened, do not hesitate to respond with appropriate force; if the situation is life-threatening, deadly force is authorized."

Part of the training is getting Soldiers into a proper mindset to react to threats quickly.

Training emphasizes prior and prudent assessment of threat situations.

New troops in a combat zone generally fall into two categories. They're either compelled to track everyone in their assigned fire sectors, and may potentially become trigger-happy, or they're reluctant to take action and subsequently are far too slow on the draw when facing down a probable enemy.

The use of paintball in training changes that. "When you're hit, you feel it," said one participant. "There is actual impact, and the paint splatters reflect what could, in battle, represent wounds to you or your buddy."

Some of the Soldiers will be deploying to Iraq for the second time and are well aware of the danger. Their personal experiences are underscored by recent news stories detailing ambushes and attacks on U.S. convoys and patrol vehicles throughout Iraq.

Suicide bombers, improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne IEDs are part of the training, as are friendly Iraqis who pose no threat, but may create tense incidents in the streets for U.S. Soldiers because of cultural and language differences.

Realistic training is crucial to raising awareness and preparing Soldiers for the harsh realities they will face in Iraq. With paintball hits, they know how devastating an ambush can be, or how complex and confusing an ordinary mission could become with civilians roaming an area of operations.


As the paint pellets fired by the "enemy" find their targets, and as paint covers the vehicles and splatters against

the Soldiers' BDUs, they hone their skills in seeking cover and concealment against the attacking enemy, return suppressive fire and exercise fire-direction control during movement to a more secure rally point and quickly care for casualties.

They also practice such communication skills as hand and arm signals, using vehicle lights or horns to alert other vehicle drivers in the convoy, and using radio or mobile cellular lines to issue verbal commands.

An observer-controller training team stops the action after every scenario to conduct on-the-spot after-action reviews.

The paintball convoy lanes are phase II of the convoy-security training, which includes a live fire from moving vehicles.

This training provides the strategic-response abilities Soldiers need to avoid or minimize casualties in America's continuing war in Iraq. 

► A Soldier guards a "wounded" comrade as a convoy comes under "fire" during paintball-assisted training.



Jack Gordon works at the 99th Regional Readiness Command Public Affairs Office.



Reserve on the Frontlines

IED Searchers

By SSG Matthew Acosta

IN AN effort to make Iraqi roads safer for fellow Soldiers, an Army Reserve company of combat engineers patrols selected roads near Baqubah, Iraq, searching for trouble.

Soldiers from Company A, 467th Engineer Battalion, from Memphis, Tenn., recently took over operations from the 141st Engr. Bn., a North Dakota Army National Guard unit, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, continuing the mission known as Operation Trailblazer.

Their mission is to search predetermined supply routes in the Baqubah area for improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents, said SFC Dallas Bryan, a Co. A combat engineer.

With teams of 18 Soldiers or more, the “Trailblazers” set out in convoys

SSG Matthew Acosta is with the 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

SSG Matthew Acosta



▲ A Buffalo vehicle belonging to the Army Reserve's 467th Engineer Battalion uses its hydraulic arm to probe a trash pile thought to contain an IED.

of several supporting vehicles and one ground mine-detection system, called a “Buffalo,” to scour the roadside for signs of terrorist activity.

The Buffalo uses a hydraulic arm to sift through trash piles or probe areas where IEDs may be hidden.

“A few rotating teams search the roads several times a day looking for conspicuous things that might be used to conceal explosives, or anything that looks like it’s out of the ordinary, such

as freshly patched potholes in the road or new road signs close to the road’s edge,” Bryan said.

When a team finds a suspicious-looking site, it closes off the road and sends in the Buffalo, Bryan added. If an IED is confirmed, the unit marks the coordinates and calls for the explosive ordnance disposal unit to neutralize the device.

“The more explosives we find, the fewer there are out there to kill or

► Iraq-bound Reserve engineer units get extensive counter-IED training. Here, a Soldier examines a dummy IED at Fort Drum, N.Y.

mains Soldiers,” said SGT Michael Cochran, a gunner in the battalion. “It’s a dangerous job, but it needs to be done.”

The convoy patrol travels at a relatively slow speed, because if it drives too fast, “by the time we see a device it’ll be too late to stop before it goes off on us or the next vehicle,” said Bryan. “We need to keep a slow, steady pace. And if we suspect something, we call in the Buffalo.”

Bryan said once members of the team get their minds on the job and start the mission, their focus is on the road. A .50-caliber machine gunner protects each of the vehicles.

Normally the Trailblazers cruise the routes looking for explosives, but sometimes they’ll encounter a vehicle they think needs to be searched. Sometimes the decision to do so is based on a tip from someone at an Iraqi traffic checkpoint.

“We do anything we need to do to make the roads safer,” said Cochran. “If we feel we need to pull a vehicle over to search it, we’ll do it, then go back to where we left off, searching the roadside.”

For the Trailblazers of the 467th Engr. Bn., the job has just begun. Since the operation started, countless IEDs have been removed from the streets of Iraq, preventing an untold number of civilian and military casualties, battalion officials said. 🇺🇸

► Stateside IED training helps Soldiers acquire the knowledge they need to make split-second decisions when confronted by real IEDs in Iraq.



Chuck Prichard (both this page)



Ammo Experts

By SSG Monika Comeaux

ARMY Reserve Soldiers sort through worn ammunition around a large table at the north Ammunition Supply Point of Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Iraq. They inspect the clips and bullets to establish whether the ammo can be reissued or needs to be destroyed.

This is just one of the many tasks they do each day to support the warfighting mission theater-wide. Their unit, the 452nd Ordnance Company from Aberdeen, S.D., is also responsible for issuing ammunition. They often ship out ammo to coalition and joint forces units in the Iraqi theater through combat logistics patrols or by air.

"Sometimes we do re-palleting and re-banding. Shipments going on Air Force pallets sometimes require a lot of physical work," said SGT Michael J. Bell, a 452nd ammo handler.

The unit operates the north and south ammunition supply points, as well as the Basic Load Ammunition Holding Area on LSA Anaconda. The entire complex is often referred to as the Corps Storage Area.

"We're handling everything from shoulder-launched missiles to 9mm pistol ammunition. The Soldiers are getting a chance to look at and handle a variety of ammunition that they may never see again," said 1LT Tamera A. Greshik, the company executive officer.

The company arrived in Iraq in late October 2005 with ap-

proximately 120 Soldiers, 30 percent of whom were transferred into the unit before it deployed. The original unit members and newcomers meshed together quickly, Greshik said.

SPC Georgeanne I. Hinkle, an ammunition specialist transferred into the 452nd, said she only had the chance to really get to know her fellow Soldiers once they had arrived in-theater. This is her second deployment to Iraq. The first time she deployed as a fuel handler and spent most of her time in Tallil.


The unit works around the clock, splitting its personnel into three shifts.

"We try to do the best we can for our customers," said SFC Dan B. Karst, a platoon leader. Back home he teaches 8th-grade students and coaches baseball, basketball and football. He said he often uses his coaching skills on the deployment.

"When you coach baseball, some people need a hug and some need a kick in the pants, and the same principles apply over here," Karst said. "What we have going for us is that a lot of us have been through it twice. Some of us have been through it three times."

For Karst, each deployment has been a family affair. His dad was the first sergeant on his first deployment. He deployed to Hungary with his brother, who also accompanied him on this tour to Iraq.

Hinkle's family had a hard time dealing with her coming over to Iraq for the second time.

"They knew it was something I wanted to do. I believe in the reason why we are over here," she said. 

SSG Monika Comeaux is assigned to the 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Gun Truck Soldiers

By SSG Engels Tejeda

FOR members of the Army Reserve's 414th Transportation Company, a deployment to Iraq has been about team building and self-discovery.

Approximately 130 Soldiers, less than a dozen of whom belonged to the original group, mobilized to Iraq in mid-2005. Their mission was to keep combat logistics patrols throughout southern Iraq safe.

"Becoming a unit is an ongoing process. We are still working on that," said SFC Tony Echevarria, the company's first sergeant.

"When we first got together, it was very tough. But there is a lot of cohesion in the teams on the gun trucks. They are close because they are out there covering each other's backs."

The teams' cohesion was evident when a civilian 18-wheeled truck swerved in front of a 414th truck during a mission to Kuwait. The gun truck hit the civilian truck twice and then caught on fire. The truck's gunner, whose head was sticking out of the truck's roof, was knocked unconscious. The truck's passenger broke his elbow. The driver, SPC Jesse Turner, managed to regain control of the truck and pulled over. He helped the passenger out of the vehicle, dragged the unconscious gunner to safety, and then used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire.

"I was just a little shaken up because my

buddies were pretty banged up," Turner said. "But I didn't really do anything special."

Turner and his battle buddy, SPC Lance Green, are planning to join the active Army and eventually become rangers. Their decision to go active reflects the transformation through which many of the Soldiers have gone. SPC Craig Neasbitt, a motor transportation operator, said the deployment has helped him strengthen his faith.

"You do a lot of thinking out here, especially if you've been in the firefights," Neasbitt said. "I think I've definitely changed since I got here."

"They say there aren't atheists in foxholes. Now I know why," he joked later.

He now plans to become a teacher and work with troubled high-school youths.

Like Neasbitt, most of the gun truck

SSG Engels Tejeda is assigned to the 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

teams in the 414th have encountered insurgent attacks ranging from improvised explosive devices or roadside bombs to small-arms fire. The average Soldier in the unit is between 19 and 23 years old, and most of them are fresh out of training. CW3 Bryan Beard, the unit's maintenance officer and a former Marine, has been on patrol with the Soldiers when they have encountered fire. His assessment of their performance is that they've risen to the occasion.

"They did everything they were trained to do," Beard said. "They executed their battle drills; we didn't lose any of the vehicles we were escorting, and I think it actually improved their morale because they were some fired-up troops when it was over."

The statistics back up Beard's assess-

ment. The unit's leaders have filed more than 140 award recommendations, including 23 for Bronze Stars.


They've had two Soldiers compete and win battalion-level competitions. At least 10 Soldiers will receive the mechanic's badge and 75 percent of the drivers will receive driver badges. The average driver has driven between 4,000 and 5,000 miles. But their biggest accomplishment has been battling insurgents without losing anyone. CPT Keil Scott, the unit's commander, said he was more than satisfied with the Soldier's work.

"My biggest concern, of course, has been the Soldiers — making sure that we all can go home safely and come together as a unit," Scott said. "We still butt heads, but that seems to be the norm in every unit

and considering that more than 100 of them were cross-leveled, we've done exceptionally well."

Though based out of Orangeburg, S.C., the 414th has Army Reserve Soldiers from 18 states and Puerto Rico.

Diverse as they are, in the field they've become close.

"We've become like family since we got here," Turner said. "It was rough at first, but they are like my brothers and sisters here. I would go to war with any of them again because I know they've got my back." 

▼ SPC Lance Green of the Reserve's 414th Transportation Company checks his vehicle's .50-caliber machine gun before an escort mission.

SSG Engels Tejeda





▶ SGT Addie Collins joins three Iraqi children who were among those who received shoes through her "Kicks for Kids" program.

for a way to give back individually in Iraq because she felt the situation there was spiraling out of control.

"I needed to do something I could control," Collins said. "One day I was throwing out a pair of sneakers I felt were too run down for me, and the next day I saw an Iraqi we pay to clean our living area wearing the shoes I threw out. The Kicks for Kids idea clicked right there."

Collins thought that she could give the Iraqis, mainly children, shoes donated by Americans wishing to contribute to the war effort. She immediately e-mailed friends and family asking them to send shoes instead of care packages.

"Word spread, and in four months roughly 15,000 pairs of shoes had been donated by Americans all over the world," Collins said. "This program helped heal that

part of me that couldn't make peace with the war that surrounded me."

Collins said that she felt validated because she saw a need and did what she could to help.

"The Americans who donated shoes also felt good, because it was a chance for them to help in a tangible way — much more than through a care package, a pat on the back or e-mail. We touched souls through soles with Kicks for Kids," she said.

All types of shoes came in — old and new, sandals, sneakers, high heels, cowboy boots, clogs, even snowshoes.

"Old shoes to Americans are new shoes to Iraqis who have nothing," she said. "The amazing thing is there was a pair of feet for every single pair which was so generously donated."

Collins said the program continued after her departure from Iraq in late 2004, and she is hopeful that the campaign will continue for a long time.

"My goal is to establish Kicks for Kids as a nonprofit organization that spreads throughout Afghanistan, Kosovo and Asia. For now, however, the shoes are being sent only to Iraq." 🇸🇵

Putting Shoes on Iraqi Kids

By Paul Adams

If you ask Army Reserve SGT Addie Collins about the war in Iraq, she could talk about military life in a combat zone, carrying an M-16 rifle everywhere she went, always being on the lookout for suicide bombers, and the physical and emotional carnage an improvised explosive device leaves behind.

Or she could tell you about the joy and smiles she helped bring to some 15,000 Iraqi children and adults.

Through "Kicks for Kids," a program she started in 2004 while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the broadcast journalist with the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment from Bell, Calif., was looking

Paul Adams works in Army Reserve Public Affairs.

▶ A crate of donated shoes arrives in Baghdad for delivery to Iraqi children. More than 15,000 pairs of shoes were donated in four months.



Soldiers Assist Iraqis

Story and Photo by SSG Raymond Drumsta

SOLDIERS rolled out of the gate in armored Humvees with loaded weapons and body armor — just as they had during previous forays outside the wire at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq.

But this patrol had a friendly face, because it was from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based in Danbury, Conn. Supporting the commander in his relationship with local residents is civil affairs' main mission, said battalion commander LTC Edwin Miranda.

"You want to give the impression that you're here to help," he said. "You want to build relationships."

The battalion's civil-affairs Soldiers are doing that — and more — in Task Force Liberty's area of operations.

On a recent patrol, Soldiers of the battalion's Headquarters and HQs. Company talked to Iraqi businessmen, assessed the effects of Iraq's recent elections on business, and asked about establishing a chamber of commerce, said civil affairs team chief SSG John Imperato.

"The goal was to get the feel of the business community, to gauge their thoughts about a chamber of commerce, and to see if they would participate," added SGT Michael Rothermel, civil affairs team sergeant and interpreter.

Before being mobilized, Imperato was a Bedford, N.Y., police officer. During the patrol, he moved from business to business like a cop walking his beat, chatting easily through an interpreter to Tikrit business owners.

"I can read people well, and I'm used to dealing with people on foot patrol," Imperato said, referring to his police experience. "What I'm doing here is similar. I still have to be on my guard."

"We have to find a balance between force protection and conducting civil-military operations. Civil affairs Soldiers can protect themselves just like other Soldiers, while treating civilians with respect — something all Soldiers should do," Miranda said.

"The average Soldier must fully understand the rules of engagement," he added. "He must understand in a split second who is the enemy, and who isn't. The average Soldier should remember that, like civil-affairs Soldiers, they are ambassadors. While they are expected to defend themselves, they should treat Iraqis with dignity and respect. It's not easy. In this environment, anyone can come out from the crowd and kill you."

That's why Imperato, Rothermel and an Iraqi official walked the streets surrounded by a moving perimeter of 360-degree security provided by American and Iraqi soldiers.

There was no negative feedback from the business owners with whom they spoke.

"The response was great," Rothermel said. "They're looking forward to having a chamber of commerce. One thing we're giving them, which they never

had before, is a voice. Now they can discuss how they'll collaborate and pool their resources."

The next step, Rothermel said, will be for Iraqis to pick chamber of commerce representatives who will communicate their community's concerns.

"You can only meet so many needs," he said. "You want to help everyone, but you can only help some of them. You do what you can. You can't let that burden weigh you down."

The civil-affairs Soldiers were once approached by an Iraqi family whose home was destroyed by a mortar round, Rothermel recalled. The family was seeking shelter — something the civil-affairs Soldiers couldn't provide. What they could supply, however, was food and hygiene items, and information on how to get in touch with an Iraqi government agency that could help.

"Sometimes we can only point people in the right direction," Rothermel said.



▲ SSG John Imperato, a team chief in the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion (center), speaks with an Iraqi shop owner (right) through an interpreter during the Tikrit patrol.

"That helps them more than we could help them on our own."

"We're structuring a government," Imperato said. "If we can get the smaller government organizations running smoothly, and the Iraqi police and Iraqi army up to speed, things will be great."

The unit is also training an Iraqi force to take over the civil-affairs mission, Imperato said. "They do well. They go out once a week by themselves."

The 411th CA Bn. is coordinating projects in TF Liberty's area of operations amounting to \$8 million, said CPT Tammie Perreault, the battalion personnel officer. These include minor school renovations, urban clean-up by local labor, preservation of Iraqi historic sites and improvement of Iraqi government facilities.

Miranda's HHC is supporting the 42nd Infantry Division, and his other companies are supporting TF Liberty's combat teams. The battalion's public-health team recently conducted a health assessment in Samarra and was able to provide Iraqi health professionals with new medical equipment, sanitation support and medical reference material.

"It's rewarding when you see needs and issues being resolved and taken care of," Miranda said. 🇮🇶



SSG Raymond Drumsta is assigned to the Task Force Liberty Public Affairs Office.

Mortuary-Affairs Soldiers

Story and Photo by SGM Joe Adelizzi

AT Iraq's Baghdad International Airport, seven Soldiers from the 169th Corps Support Battalion, 1st Corps Spt. Command, perform a delicate but necessary task.

The mortuary-affairs Soldiers process the remains of U.S. service members, Department of Defense contractors, members of coalition forces, and Iraqi army and Iraqi national guard soldiers who lose their lives while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. They also process the remains of any Iraqi detainees or third-country nationals who die while under the jurisdiction of U.S. forces, and safeguard them until their remains can be handed over to their families.

Six of the Soldiers are members of the 246th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit from Aquadilla, P.R., and the other is from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y. Their mission is to process and prepare human remains and personal effects for shipment to the United States or the deceased person's country of origin.

"The deceased member's unit is responsible for gathering the Soldier's personal property and completing the inventory," said SGT William Feliciano, noncommissioned officer in charge of the mortuary. "Units will appoint a casualty-assistance officer to ensure that everything done and packed at their level is screened and accounted for."

"Once the deceased arrives here,

we remove such personal items as rings, identification tags and anything else that accompanies him, put the items in a personal effects bag and tie it to the deceased's wrist. We try and get all of the paperwork completed and the service member on the way home in less than 24 hours," said SGT Joel Lopez, a mortuary-affairs specialist from the 246th QM Co.

The nature of the mortuary-affairs mission requires around-the-clock operations that involve all of the Soldiers' collective focus and dedication in order to perform these sensitive services for so many different organizations and ethnic groups. Other detachment members include SPC William Velez, SPC Arnaldo Irizarri, SPC Eric Pena and SPC Guillermo Ortiz. All are mortuary-affairs specialists from the 246th.

Detachment members admit the most difficult part of their job is dealing with the relatives and family members of deceased Iraqis who come to claim their relatives. SGT Charron Holcombe, the 10th Mtn. Div.

▲ Mortuary-affairs Soldiers like SGT William Feliciano, SGT Charron Holcombe and SGT Joel Lopez provide a delicate but necessary service.

member of the team, reflected on some of the challenges they face.

"We try to mirror as closely as possible what local customs and religious practices dictate, and therein lies our greatest challenge," Holcombe said. "For example, Muslims do not want autopsies performed on their family members, while we are required by regulation to determine the cause of death of every Iraqi detainee who dies while in U.S. custody. We have to try to operate in a way that satisfies everyone's requirements.

"We also often have to deal with very emotional situations when family members arrive to claim their relatives," Holcombe added. "There's a language barrier to overcome, and we use a lot of gestures to convey our sympathies for their loss. We try to tell them that we're here to help them get their loved ones home. It's hard." 🇺🇸



The nature of the mortuary-affairs mission requires around-the-clock operations that involve all of the Soldiers' collective focus and dedication in order to perform these sensitive services.

SGM Joe Adelizzi is assigned to the 301st Area Support Group.

Chinooks Aid Pakistan Relief

By Chuck Prichard

MEMBERS of Company B, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, an Army Reserve unit from Olathe, Kan., had just arrived at their mobilization station to prepare for a deployment to Afghanistan when their mission was literally shaken up.

Instead of heading into the Afghan war zone, the unit's 200 Army Reserve Soldiers and 14 Chinook helicopters were sent almost immediately to the other side of the Safid Mountain range to help provide relief to the victims of a powerful earthquake that struck Pakistan on Oct. 8, 2005.

"This mission was tailor made for us," said unit commander MAJ Walter Bradley. "The roads are impassable. The only way to move anything is by aircraft. And our Chi-

nooks are the aircraft best suited for these conditions."

The 7.6-magnitude quake killed 86,000 people, injured 69,000 and left an estimated four million homeless. Co. B arrived on the scene two weeks after the earthquake hit.

"It is difficult to find words to describe the destruction," Bradley said. "We go some places that don't look too bad. But there are some villages that don't have a single building left standing. It is absolutely incredible. Yet, these people have the resolve to pick up the pieces and move on with their lives."

The Pakistani government is calling the relief effort "Operation Lifeline." Co. B continues to be a vital thread in that lifeline, providing 75 percent of the flights ferrying supplies into remote mountain villages and evacuating residents who are unable to withstand the austere conditions.

"Every mission we fly is at max weight and max capacity. If you can name it, we have probably hauled it," Bradley said before rattling off a list of supplies his aircraft have carried, including baby formula, tents, roofing materials, medical supplies, flour, grain and construction materials.

Co. B's helicopters have logged hundreds of flying hours since joining the mission. "There are no days off. We have to keep flying, because there is still a critical need for everything. Our maintenance crews are doing a fantastic job of keeping us in the air. We don't have the luxury of down days for maintenance," Bradley said.

While it might seem boring to haul an

▼ A CH-47 Chinook of the Reserve's Company B, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, delivers food and supplies to the village of Dhanni.

Chuck Prichard works for Army Reserve Public Affairs.

1LT Chris Ruff



► Pakistani soldiers carry tents bound for stranded villagers to a waiting 158th Avn. Bn. Chinook.

endless stream of supplies, Bradley begs to differ. He classifies every mission as an adventure.

"The conditions are constantly changing. We flew into a village in the morning and had a hard time landing, because of the brown-out from the dust. Then, when we went back to the same village in the afternoon, we had to contend with white-out conditions because of snow," he said.

The mountain elevations also call for skillful flying, Bradley said.

"Our ceiling is 14,000 feet. We can't fly above that altitude without oxygen. Many of our missions are just below or right at that threshold," he said.

LTG James Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, called this one of "the tough and demanding missions that the Army Reserve increasingly has to be prepared to do."

Given the abrupt mission change and rapid deployment following mobilization, Co. B clearly was prepared. The Soldiers of the unit have adapted to the situation and are performing well. "The real key was training under demanding conditions before mobilization," Helmly said.

It is unclear how long the unit will be involved with the relief effort or whether it will eventually be sent to its original mission.

"We'll see how that plays out. But, for right now, we have a robust mission and are loving every minute of it," Bradley said.

"I don't think any other mission could be this rewarding for us. We have American flags painted on both sides of our Chinooks. When we land in these villages the people point to the flags and let us know how grateful they are that we have come to help," he said. 🇺🇸

► Carrying a cargo of tents intended for homeless villagers, a Chinook squeezes into a tight landing zone near the town of Chakama.



MSG Greg Deimel (both this page)





LAURA LAW

JOINED THE ACTIVE ARMY

BECAME ASSISTANT TO STATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVISOR TO BOSNIA.



JOINED THE ARMY RESERVE
TRAINED UNIT TO PROTECT OUR
TROOPS FROM IEDS.

BECAME A CIVILIAN
STARTED AN ORGANIZATION FOR
VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE.



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ARMY RESERVE

When Laura Law joined the Army, she wasn't sure where her career would take her. But from day one, her leadership skills, courage and determination helped her to forge new paths and succeed. By joining the Army Reserve after Active Duty, you'll continue serving your country while sharpening your skills and mastering new ones. Plus, you'll get a bonus, extra paycheck and the chance to train near home. Learn more about CPT Laura Law and how you can build a future filled with possibilities. Visit goarmyreserve.com/laura or call 800-USA-ARMY.





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